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Department of State EXDIS INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-11 TRSE-00 /072 W

R 071946Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5171
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7382

E.O.12065: GDS 10/3/86 (LAWRENCE LOREN) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: ELECTORAL PROGRESS

REF: KINGSTON 6987

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. THE VOTERS LIST IS ALMOST COMPLETED, AND MOST POLLING STATION HAVE BEEN SELECTED. AN AMENDEMNT TO THE ELECTORAL LAW PASSED IN PARLIAMENT ON OCTOBER 2 WILL ENSURE THAT ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS PRESENT AT THE POLLING STATION WHEN IT CLOSES AT 5 P.M. CAN STILL VOTE. PRIMIN MANLEY IS STILL EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCED A LATE OCTOBER ELECTION DATE N OCTOBER 5 IN MONTEGO BAY. END SUMMARY.

3. THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ELECTORAL MATTERS. SEYMOUR MULLINGS ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT ON OCTOBER 2,1980 THAT THE PRINTING OF THE ELECTORAL LIST BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 29 AND CONTAINED THE NAMES OF 974,000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS. APPROXIMATELY 15,000 NAMES WERE DELEDTED FROM THE ORIGIANL LIST BECAUSE OF MULTIPLE REGISTRATION, MAINLY IN KINGSTON AND THE PARISH OF ST CATHERINE. HE ADDED THAT POLLING STATIONS HAD BEEN SELECTED IN MOST CONSTITUENCIES AND THAT THE RETURNING OFFICER IN EACH CONSTITUENCY WOULD HAVE LISTS OF POLLING STATIONS BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

4. AS ONE OF ITS LAST ACTS BEFORE AFJOURNING SINE DIE, IN ANTICIPATN OF AN ELECTION DAE ANNOUNCEMENT ON OCTOBER5, THE PARLIAMAENT AMENDED THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT (THE ELECTORAL LAW) TO ALLOW VITERS TO VOTE AFTER THE STATUTORY POLL CLOSING HOUR OF 5 P.M. IF THE PRESIDING OFFICER IDENTIFIES THEM AS HAVING BEEN WITHIN THE IMMIESTA EPRECINCTS OF THE STATIONS AT THAT HOUR. PREVIOUSLY ONLY THOSE VOTERS PHYCISCALLY PRESENT WITHINT THE POLLING STATIONS WHEN THE DOORS CLOSED AT 5 PM COULD STILL VOTE. MANY POLLING STATIONS ARE LITTLE MORE THAN SMALL ROOMS AND DELAYS IN THE VOTING PROCESS ARE EXPECTED THIS ELECTION BECAUSE OF NEW PROCUDURES RESULTING FROM ELECTORAL REFORMS. [redacted] THE AMENDMENT IS DESIGNED TO AVOID DENYING THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE TO ELEIGIBLE VOTERS WHO ARE IN TH IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE POLLING STATION AT 5 PM. BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO VOTE. b(1) ED

5. [redacted]

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WE UNDERSTAND THAT DELAYS WERE CAUSED BY AMERICAN OWNED DATA KEY LIMITED WHICH DID NOT MET THE TIMETABLE FOR PROCESSING REGISTRATIONS AND HAD A HIGH NUMBER OF TRANSCRIPTION ERRORS IN THE REGISTRATIONS PROCESSED BY ITS OPERATIONS IN HAITI.

6. [redacted] THERE HAD BEEN DIFFICUTLTIES IN GETTING SOME OWNER OF PRIATE HOUSES AND BUILDINGS WHICH HAD BEEN USED AS POLLING STATIONS IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS TO PERMIT THEIR PROPERTIES TO BE SUED AS POLLING STATIONS AGAINS. [redacted] WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT HE COULD NOT RECRUIT ANE HIGH QUALITY LOCAL INDIVIDUALS AS PRESIDING OFFICERS AND POLLING CLERKS FOR POLLING STATIONS. IN BOTH INSTANCES IT WAS FEAR OF INCREASED VIOLENCE IN THIS ELECTION WHICH MADE SOME CITIZENS RELUCTANT TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES. HOWEVER, THESE DIFFICULTIES WERE BEING OVERCOME. b(1) ED b(1) ED

7. COMMENT: DESPITE UNFORSEEN PROBLEMS THE ELECTORAL MACHINERY IS ALMOST IN PLACE. [redacted] THE MEMBERS OF GLADSTON MILLS ELECTORAL COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN WORKING FEVERISHLY TO COMPLETE PREPARATIONS MANLEY IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCED A LATE OCTOBER ELECTION DATE AT THE SUNDAY OCTOBER 5 AFTERNOON RALLY IN SAM SHARPE SQUARE IN MONTEGO BAY. INVITATIONS TO THE DIMPLATIC CORPS TO ATTEND THE RALLY WERE HURRIEDLY ISSUED BY THE PNP ON OCTOBER 3, AN WE READ THIS AS ONE FURTHER INDIATOR THAT THE ELECTIONS DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SUNDAY.
LAWRENCE b(1) ED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

[redacted] b(1) ED

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